Extinction of Folk Theatre

154. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that, "swaang" an age old tradition of staging folk theatre in the country is now almost extinct ;

(b) whether Government have identified the reasons therefor and if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government propose to issue guidelines, if any, to the state Governments to revive it ; and

(d) whether Government also propose to provide any grant to the States for this purpose, if so, the quantum thereof, State-wise ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) In view of (a) above, it does not arise. However, Swaang, a traditional theatre form, is very popular in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Sangeet Natak Akademi has recorded Swaang performances for its archives in 1971 & 1989. The Akademi also presented Swaang in its prestigious annual Lok Utsav in October 1989. The Akademi also honoured Shri Tule Ram of Haryana by the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1989 in recognition of his contribution to the Swaang.

(d) Certain schemes of Government provide financial support to voluntary organisations/bodies for promotion and propagation of different art forms including Swaang. No further grant to the States for this purpose seems necessary.

Increase in Entry Fee at Taj Mahal

155. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that entry fee to Taj Mahal has been increased from Rs. 2 per head to Rs. 10 recently ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the interests of low-budget tourists have been ignored while deciding such a hike ;

(d) whether Government propose to provide any relief to low-budget tourists in respect of Taj and other places of tourist interest elsewhere ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) No, Sir. The entry fee to Taj Mahal is 50 paise only. Apart from this 50 paise which is charged by the Archaeological Survey of India, Rs. 1.50 is charged by the Agra Development Authority as Toll Tax on a separate ticket which is not entry ticket. The enhancement has been done by the Agra Development Authority by raising Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 100.

(b) Agra Development Authority has done this to increase their revenues.

(c) Yes, Sir. The interest of low-budget tourists is going to suffer by enhancing toll tax for a monument.

(d) and (e) Since the Archaeological Survey of India has not so far increased any entry fee to any of the monuments of tourist interest, the question of providing financial relief to Tourist does not arise.

Handicaps in Imparting Primary and Secondary Education

156. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :
SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY :
SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN :
SHRI G. G. SWELL :
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that our primary and secondary education suffers from several

handicaps including inadequate and unsatisfactory school buildings, heavy book load at primary level, substantial absenteeism in rural areas by students and teachers who get salaries by just signing muster roll ;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is an over crowding of students in primary and secondary schools in urban areas and therefor their training suffers very badly ;

(c) what are the measures suggested or being implemented to mitigate the problems referred to in parts (a) and (b) above ;

(b) whether the imparting of higher education is obligatory on the part of the State ; and

(e) if not, the reasons for imparting almost free higher education and make suffer primary and vocational education ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) Universalisation of elementary education in terms of enrolement, retention, learning achievements and improvement of infrastructure facilities and of the quality of education are priority concerns. The National Policy on Education, 1986, as up-dated in 1992, tabled in Parliament on 7th May, 1992 and its Programme of Action, 1992 also tabled in Parliament on 19th August, 1992 spell out a number of measures to meet these priorities.

(d) and (e) It is necessary to take a holistic perception of all stages of Education in the context of the diverse educational needs of the country and the linkages between higer education and other stages of Education. The resources for education, particularly for elementary education and adult literacy, have been stepped up considerably during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Evolution of New Methods in Education System in the Country

157. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Council of Boards of School Education in India in its recent meeting held in New Delhi suggested the need for evolving new methods of evolution in schools instead of customery external Board Examinations ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Council also suggested privatisation of schools to explore alternative sources for finance and reducing their dependency on Government ;

(c) if so, what are the details of the recommendations made by the Council ;

(d) what action Government have taken on each of these recommendations ; and

(e) what steps Governments have so far taken to improve or change the existing school education system in Delhi and in Central Schools in the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d) The report regarding the details of the recommendations made in the International Conference on Improving quality of Secondary Education organised by the Council of Boards of School Education in India (COBSE) in Delhi from 6—8th November, 1993 has not yet been received by the Government. However, in the above mentioned Conference, the need for giving due weightage to school